

Indian Writing in English and Contribution of Indian Writers

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Abstract

Indian English literature is an honest enterprise to demonstrate the ever rare gems of Indian writing in English. Since pre-independence era, the fast few years have witnessed a gigantic prospering and thriving of Indian English writing in the global market. Indian English literature has attained an Independent status in the world literature. Indian literature continues to refract Indian culture, tradition, social value and Indian history through the depiction of life in India and Indian living elsewhere. Recent Indian fiction has been trying to give expression to the Indian experience of the modern predicament.

Keywords: Indian English literature, global market, Indian culture, world literature, predicament

In pre-independence period, under British rule, there were many social and political movements occur. Beside this, whole country waged freedom war against tyranny of British empire. Few notable writers were busy in writing in English. The main focus of those writers was to expose the social discrimination and old traditions as well as to stir up people for freedom. No doubt, British had used English language for general trade, education system and administration. The impact of English language on writers made them prompt in writing skill in English language and creativity of writers flourished so much.

In 1930 the trio of R. K. Narayan, Mulk Raj Anand and Raja Rao depicted an old Indian scenario in their novels. The main theme of their novels was social segregation, old tradition and culture, religious ritual and domestic violence on woman. As India was passing through many uncountable national crises and social changes in pre and post-independence period, spirit of nationalism, patriotism, multiculturalism and partition deeply rooted in peoples' mind. Post independence period was marked by spirit of liberty, new concept and socio-political issues for example, literally work of Sarojini Naidu, Rabindranath Tagore, Kamala Das, Salman Rushdie, Amitav Ghosh, Kiran Desai, Arundhati Roy, Chetan Bhagat etc. has handled various themes and produced many novels, poetries, short stories and dramas in English literature. At every progressive stage, many Indian writers from young generation have started to write in English.

Now English language is not remained only the language of queens and Emperor. It becomes most spoken second language of many Indians. Indian writers have achieved competency and mastery over English language as colonial period was so much favorable for acquisition of English language in written and spoken form to Indian writers. Indian authors dealt with different theme and diasporic vision in their novels such as Salman Rushdie, Robinton Mystry, G. V. Desai, Vikram Chandra and others had shared cross culture experiences and attempted to surpass to European writers. Thus the contribution of Indian writers to English literature is immense and spontaneous. Of course, this contribution of Indian writers in English literature has not been unnoticed. Few Indian writers have been selected for Noble Prize Award, Booker Prize Award and short listed for other prestigious award. From R. K. Narayan to Chetan Bhagat, there is long range of Indian writers in English. All these writers have been depicting Indian milieus and scenario in English language.

As M. K. Naik remarks "One of the most notable gift of English education to India is pros fiction for though India was probably a fountain head of story-telling, the novel as we know today was an importation from the waste India's substantial contribution to the world literature is largely due to the profusely creative literally work generated by Indian novelist in English."

Indian English literature refers to the work by writers in India who write in English language, belongs to any native language in India. The history of Indian English literature began 200 years ago with the work of Sri Aurobindo, Rabindranath Tagore, R. K. Narayan, Mulk Raj Anand, Raja Rao and K. S. Venkataramani and work of Indian Diaspora such as V. K. Naipaul, Kiran Desai, Jhumpa Lahiri, Agha Shahid Ali, Robinton Mystry and Salman Rushdie. This literature is also called Indo-Anglion literature, it comes under of broader of post colonial literature. In post colonial literature there are many writers both men and women from different walk of life write on various things. Psychological and sociological issues become major theme of writers like R. K. Narayan and Kamala Markndaya. They dealt with less

complicated and rural life as in 'The Painter of Signs' and 'A Handful of Rice' respectively. The contemporary Indian English fiction has been impacted by changed perception of India Diaspora writers and they have contributed much to the developing Indian literature in English. Now Indian English literature has reached to global and trans-national level with its own identity and broaden fictional concern of these writers. A number of recent novelist have produced significant novels, making a mark in the literally work. In the past few decades Indo-English fiction writers choose to write on global concern through multicultural reality rather than on typical Indian background and traditional Indian cultural ethos. New form of expression and expansion thematic concern claim for prestigious award like Noble Prize won by V. S. Naipaul. They avoid topography and focused on world modern look. Their works are not limited to the representation of commonly experienced epistemological world of the poor and the socially down trodden. Indian novelist dealt with various issues of society, nation freedom struggle and individual concern in their novels and consolidate this movement further. The vast contribution of Indian writers, particularly novelist, to the world literature is incredible. All novelist have evolved their creativity and obtained fluency over English language. The struggle of independence had deep influence on writers mind and lucid description of the saga of Indian independence has sharpened the writer's flair to depict national feeling that motivate the masses and socio-political issues occupied place of old religion, traditional aestheticism in writers novels. Partition of 1947 sow new trend in writer's writing like migration, east-west conflict, multiculturalism, social realism, gender issues, ecological concern and diasporic writing in post independence period.

Individual conscious has got the shape as English language becomes popular among high and middle class in India and use by writers for narrative becomes suitable medium to express themselves. Indian writing in English has been admired in the country and abroad. Indian writings exhibited originality of Indian theme and spirit.

As the publication of Gauri Vishwanath's *Mask of Conquest: literally study and British Rule in India* (1990) which deals with the ideology and practice of English studies in British India, said the tone for deliberations on the social and cultural functions of English studies in India.

Contribution of Great Indian Writers to English Literature

Pre independence period (1900-1947)- In this period there were few Indian writers. The theme of their writing

was socio-political issues, old traditions, culture, nationalism, patriotism and rural background. They depicted social discrimination and plight of down trodden people.

Sri Aurobindo is the first poet in Indian-English literature who has reinterpreted the myth in true sense. Aurobindo's famous book 'The Human Cycle' and 'The Ideal of Human Society' based on philosophy of human life, humanistic approach and spiritual vision of future.

Rabindranath Tagore (1861-1941) has written many poems, play in both English and Bengali. He is known as modernist poet. He did not follow rigid classical structure. 'Ghare, Baire, Jogajog and Gora' are some of his best novels focusing on social issues such as nationalism, religious zeal to slavery of woman and bondage of tradition and custom. His writing shows sympathy for the poor and uphold universal human value. Tagore wrote two musical dramas 'Valmiki Pratibha' and 'Raktakaravi'. He wrote 'Home and The World' and 'The Wreck'.

K. S. Venkataramani (1892-1952) is also an Indo-Anglian writer of the pre independence era, influenced by Gandhian ideology. He is novelist and short story writer. He wrote two novels, 'Murugan, The Tiller(1927)', 'Kandan, The Patriot (1934)' and his collection of short stories are Jatadharan and other stories. His novel describes morally and economically rich united village community and followers of Gandhi.

Bhabani Bhattacharya (1906-1998) is a novelist of pre independence period. He is novelist of positive vision of life and stories are combination of social and historical truth. In his writing we find bitter and painful realities of society such as tragedies of freedom struggle and partition, evil of poverty, corruption, ignorance, superstition, exploitation, greed etc. His first five novels are set against Indian social picture and sixth novel is set in India and America's Hawaii Island, deal with spiritual quest. His novels are 'So Many Hungers (1947)', 'Music For Mohini (1952)', 'He Who Rides Tiger (1955)', 'The Goddesses Named Gold (1960)', 'Shadow from Ladakh (1966)' and 'A Dream Of Hawaii (1978)'.

Post independent period (1950-2000)

India has been a progressive nation in science and technology as well as economic growth is going up in this period. Again novel is the best medium to explore and express the reflection of this age. The new literature of post independent nation increased suddenly and many writers such as Mulk Raj Anand, Raja Rao promoted the conventional mode of writing and produced novels in English and contributed to Indian English literature.

Indian English writing develop in all genres of literature and got the momentum in the global market. Salman Rushdie, Amitav Ghosh, Vikram Seth, Arundhati Roy, Anita Nair and Jhumpa Lahiri are emerging voices of modern India. They started process of decolonization and used it to express Indian thought and sensibilities with distinctive Indian style.

Mulk Raj Anand (1905-2004). His novels based on inequalities in societies and trial of poor. 'Untouchable', 'Coolie' and 'The Village and The Private Life of an Indian Princess' are his famous novels exposed evil of society. Protagonists of his novels are portrait as hero in the society.

R. K. Narayan (1906-2001) is another most celebrated novelist in Indian English writing. The events and scenes of his novel are imaginary from Malgudi, an imaginary town in south India. His famous novels are 'The Bachelor of Arts', 'Painter of Sign', 'Swami and Friends', 'The English Teacher', 'Waiting for Mahatma', 'The Guide' and 'The Sweet Vendor'. He uses ironic humor for vivid portrayal of characters.

Raja Rao (1908-2006). His novels are blending of philosophy and metaphysics. His novels reveals the domestic violence on women who are shown little ambitious, play the role of Savitri in the 'The Serpent and The Rope'. He narrates contemporary life and deep rooted Hindu orthodoxy. 'The Cat and The Shakespeare', 'Comrade', 'Kirillov' and 'Kanthapura' are his some famous novels influenced by Gandhian movements and highlighted Gandhi-Irwin pact.

Post-Colonial Period

Abrupt of creative writing brings the awareness about multiculturalism and describe the new post-colonial India with it-s developed outlook which is mixed up of tradition and modernism. It reveals cosmopolitan outlook of new generation that balance traditional value and foreign culture and use of revolutionary narrative technique made Indian writers' position high among all on the international levels.

Salman Rushdie (1947) was born and brought up in Bombay and went to England for higher education. His novels abounds with myth, symbol and motif. 'The Midnight's Children' shook the foundation of Indian English fiction. He uses very new and innovative technique for writing novels. Incredible imagination, amazing comic sense and absolute words are the hallmarks of Rushdie's work.

Vikram Seth (1952) has written 'A Suitable Boy'. In this novel, Seth throws light on social milieu of post

independent India. The major attraction of his novel is the depiction of social panorama of India which encompasses cultural arena, politics in academic circle.

Apart from these, the contribution of women writers is remarkable. Many women writers like Sarojini Naidu, Kamala Das, Bharti Mukharjee, Divya Kumari Banerjee etc. have different vision of their lives in India and abroad. They share common concern and cultural bondage that suppressed woman from elevating on higher level. Jhumpa Lahiri's 'Interpreter of Maladies' has smacks of disease. Kiran Desai's 'The Inheritance of Loss' is a poignant story of Indian. They challenge to traditional moral value. They assert their control on life and human affair. Women's experiences and feminist understanding of life well expressed in the novel of Nayantara Sagal, Shobha De, Manju Kapoor, Namita Ghokhale, Geeta Hariharan, Shashi Deshpande and others.

G. V. Desai's All About Hater, Shashi Tharoor's The Great Indian novel, Boman Desai's The Memory of Elephants, Ranjit Lal's The Crow Chronicals, Amitav Ghosh's The Circle of Reason, G. J. V. Prasad's A Clean Breast, Kiran Nagarkar's Ravan And Eldie, Tabish Kher's An Angels in Pyjama, Ruken Advani's Beat Hoven among Cows, Mukul Keshwans Looking through Glass, Vikram Chandra's Red Earth and Pouring Rain and Chetan Bhagat's White Elephants are the long list of Indian novels and novelist. These narrators have great contribution to Indian writing in English which help to enrich the English literature with Indian identity.

Conclusion

Since pre independent, trio of Indian writers like Mulk Raj Anand, R. K. Narayan, Raja Rao and Rabindranath Tagore, Sri Aurobindo have started the campaign of Indian writing in English. Step by step Indian literature in English has nurtured and flourished in post independent period. New narrative techniques have been used by post independent writers to writer diasporic spirit and cross cultural experiences of life. As new perspective developed, the writers deal with cosmopolitan theme to express individual conscious arose from social ill-treatment. The Indian writers have produced huge Indian literature in English. Thus the contribution of Indian writers to world literature has marked its Indian identity. Pre-independent authors like R. K. Narayan, K. S. Venkantaramani, Bhabhani Bhattacharya and post-colonial writers such as Salman Rushdie, Kamala Markhandyaya, Amitav Ghosh, Shobha De, Anita Desai, Chetan Bhagat etc. have depicted Indian sentiment with modern outlook. All these writers have attempted to elevate the image of India in the world through their Indian writing.

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